the Candidate for Goddess™

2

YUKIRU SUGISAKI

TOKYOPOP

I S E
CANDIDATE
F O R
GODDESS
02
YUKISU
SSEISAKI

the Candidate for Goddess™

The entrance requirement
for
G.O.A.
1
male, in good health, 14-16yrs.
2
of the blood group: unadulterated EO
3
having (potentially) specific ability called EX

The term of training is completed in three years

G·O·A

the Candidate for Goddess™

VOL. 2

BY

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TOKYOPOP

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The Candidate For Goddess Vol. 2

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女神候補生

杉崎ゆきる

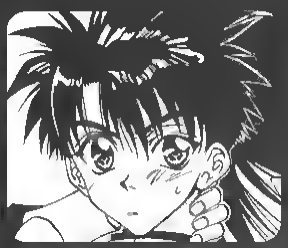
PILOT
MECHANIC
Ernesi Cuore
Age 17, Blood Type AO, 170cm, 59kg
The pilot of the Goddess, Lumina Klein. His repairer is Tune Yhug.
Rioraute Vilgyne
Age 16, Blood Type BO, 168cm, 55kg
The pilot of the Goddess, Agui Kennedy. His repairer is Phiphelore Diem.
Yu Hikura
Age 16, Blood Type BO, 164cm, 48kg
The pilot of the Goddess, Telta Kaltsia. His repairer is Kazuki Hikura (his younger sister)
Dareas Eidd
Age 17, Blood Type BO, 178cm, 65kg
The pilot of the Goddess, Eeva Leena. His repairer is Leene Fujimura.
Teele Zain Elmes
Age 15, B and type AO, 155cm, 42kg
The best of the five Goddess pilots, and the only female. Teele pilots Iron Lutes. Her repairer is

Outline of our Story

In the year S.C. 4088 due to the Crisis of Systems (Lost Property) which destroyed four planetary systems, Mankind was forced into space where they live in artificial colonies. Mankind's last hope is the one remaining planet, Zion, but this planet is being targeted by unknown enemies called the Giselsha. To battle the Giselsha, Mankind created five giant humanoid weapons, Ingrids (also known as Goddesses), but the pilots must meet special requirements (male, in good health, 14-16 years old, blood type BO, potentially having the special ability EX). Goddess Operator Academy (G.O.A.) was established as a facility to train these pilots, and the students have come to be known as Candidates for Goddess.

In S.C. 5030, a young man named Zero Enna rode the transport ship to G.O.A. When he was ten years old, Zero saw the Goddesses in action and has since longed to pilot one. Now that he has turned fifteen, his EX has been confirmed, and he has been accepted to G.O.A.

Also riding the transport ship were other new students, Hilead and Clay, and their instructor, Azuma. Clay and Zero hit it off right away, but for some reason, Hilead regarded Zero as an enemy. After arriving at G.O.A., Zero got separated from Clay and the others, and ended up in the Goddess hangar. Zero got excited at seeing the Goddesses up close for the first time, and accidentally boarded Eeva Leena. The Goddess is supposed to only be able to accept her current pilot, but Zero was able to briefly control Eeva Leena. Just then, the Giselsha attacked and Zero was thrown forcefully out of the cockpit. Hilead learned what happened and the two boys ended up fighting in sickbay. During the scuffle, Zero discovered that Hilead has the same EX that he does. What could this mean...?



Zero Enna

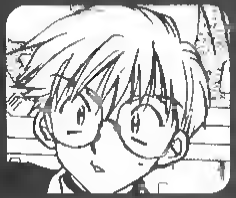
Age 15, Blood Type BO, 155cm, 48kg

A Goddess Candidate from a remote colony. His number is 98. When he was ten years old, he saw the Goddesses in action and has dreamed of being a pilot ever since. He has a bright, positive personality, but has a fear of zero gravity, a fatal weak point for one aspiring to be a pilot.

Hilead Gner

Age 15, Blood Type BO, 160cm, 52kg

A Goddess Candidate in the same class as Zero. His number is 87. He confronted Zero almost immediately upon entering G.O.A., and has hated Zero ever since. He is cold and behaves badly. Hilead has the same EX as Zero.



Clay Cliff Forten

Age 15, Blood Type B, 164cm, 53kg

A Goddess Candidate in the same class as Zero. His number is 99. He's an intellectual and likes logic and reason. He came to G.O.A. because he thought it would be interesting, not because he particularly wants to be a pilot. He has an insatiable curiosity, and he tends to say, "Very interesting."

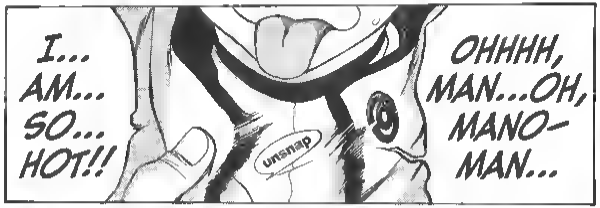
Azuma Hijikata

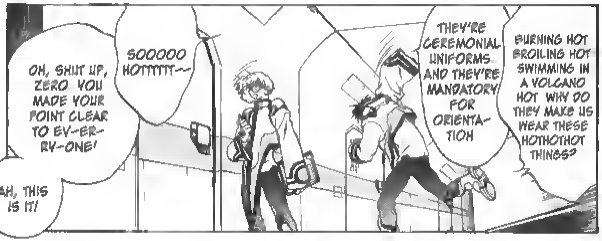
First Rank Instructor at G.O.A.
(the best of the instructors)

05 NO.88
GENTLEMEN!
TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
YOU WERE ALL CHOSEN TO BECOME CANDIDATES FOR A GODDESS BECAUSE YOU POSSESS...
BUT BEING A CANDIDATE IS NOT SOMETHING THAT DESERVES CONGRATULATIONS
TO PILOT GODDESSES THE A.H.W.S. CALLED INGRIDS. YOU WILL MOST DEFINITELY SUFFER IN WAYS NONE OF YOU CAN NOW IMAGINE.
WELL SHALL I SAY... CERTAIN SPECIAL ABILITIES
OTHERS MIGHT OFFER CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING ELIGIBLE TO ENTER G.O.A
I PROMISE THAT ALL OF YOU WILL FEEL DESPAIR. SOME OF YOU WILL MOST LIKELY QUIT. BUT EVEN IF YOU
—THERE IS NO GUARANTEE YOU WILL EVER BECOME A PILOT.
YET THERE IS A CHANCE REMOTE AS IT MIGHT BE
BUT ONLY THE VERY BEST STUDENTS WILL EVER BE GIVEN EVEN THAT VAGUE POSSIBILITY
I'M FROZEN INSIDE...
GRAP
AS FOR THE REST OF YOU...WELL IT SHOULD PROVE INTERESTING AT THE VERY LEAST.
DISMISSED!

05 NO.88 011
06 WEAK POINT 043
07 HEAVEN KNOWS 069
08 THERE'S NO LIMIT 091
09 ALIVE 123

JOIN US...
...IN THE SCHOOL ANTHEM!
SALUTE!




OH, SHUT UP, ZERO. YOU MADE YOUR POINT CLEAR TO EV-ER-RY-ONE!
SOOOOO HOTTTTT~~
AH, THIS IS IT!
THEY'RE CEREMONIAL UNIFORMS... AND THEY'RE MANDATORY FOR ORIENTA-TION
BURNING HOT BROILING HOT SWIMMING IN A VOLCANO HOT. WHY DO THEY MAKE US WEAR THESE HOTHOTHOT THINGS?

And by the way... why are you dressed like that?
EXCUSE ME?
YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE HOUSED HERE?
EH?
YUP. 87, 88, 89...
HA HAA, A TRIPLE, HUH?
WHAT?! I DON'T GET MY OWN ROOM?!

Welcome, everyone.

Here at the Goddess Operator Academy (G.O.A.)
we train pilots who will one day operate the giant humanoid
weapons (lingrids, a.k.a. Goddesses). Deep within each of you
are abilities as precious as diamonds and skills just as rare.
It is important to remember that while it is an honor and privilege to be
one of the chosen few, it is also a solemn duty as well--a duty you
have sworn to uphold in order to ensure the future of all Mankind.
Those of you who have cleared the following strict conditions have
been admitted into G.O.A. as Pilot Candidates.

1
To be a healthy male of 14-16 years of age.

2
To be of the blood-type unadulterated EO.

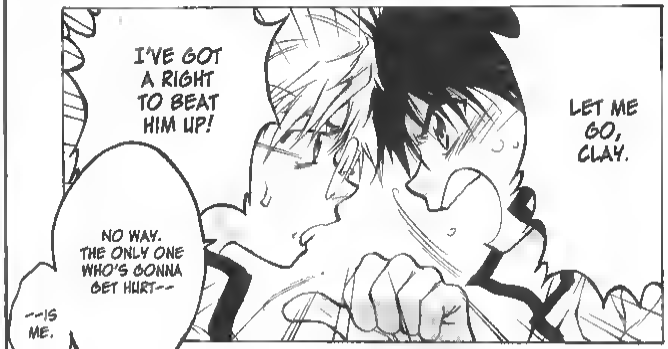
3
To have a special ability (EX) or to have the potential to have it.

You will be enrolled for three years.
The training is extremely harsh-- many of you won't make it.
Furthermore, even if you graduate, there is no guarantee that you will
immediately assume the role of a Pilot. Positions are filled only after
a current Pilot dies or retires (because of degeneration of EX).
On the other hand, if you display abilities superior to those
of the current Pilots while you are enrolled, the road to becoming a Pilot
will open for you.
We want you to believe in yourselves, be diligent in your training,
and win the position of Pilot.
If you have direction and ambition, we have no problems guiding you.
We will give you the knowledge and techniques necessary
to become a Pilot.
Mankind has but one enemy--
a group of unidentified life forms we call Giseisha.
In this battle to protect the planet Zion, we, the last of Mankind,
will take no other path than victory.
Failure is unacceptable.
In the battlefield, there exists only one simple result.
Namely, you win, or you lose.
I shouldn't have to tell you which one to choose.
The future of this battle rests on those who have just become Pilot
Candidates--yes, you.

Your number is...

(Excerpt from the handbook for new students)
G.O.A. Official Handbook 01 Important documents--restricted.

GUYS... GUYS??! C'MON! STOP! STOP! STOP!!
THAT'S IT! I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU!
IT'S YOUR FAULT, JERK.
YOU'RE STANDING IN MY WAY.
YOU?! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KEEPS KICKING ME!
Oh, no! Not again!


I'VE GOT A RIGHT TO BEAT HIM UP!
NO WAY. THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GONNA GET HURT--
--IS ME.
LET ME GO, CLAY.

NEW STUDENTS ROOM TOGETHER!!
LIVE WITH IT.
I JUST WANT ONE FOR ME
SO, YOU CAN'T GIVE ALL THOSE PEOPLE SINGLE ROOMS!!
SO?
THREE THOUSAND PEOPLE, ZERO NOT ONE NOT TWO. THREE THOUSAND!!

SHUT UP AND GET INSIDE!

Rio? Are you okay, Rioioute?
OW... MY ARM...
IT GOT MY RIGHT ARM
THE SCANNER WAS 0.05 LATE IN CUTTING OFF...
YEAH.
Part of your atmic...?
AND I DON'T INTEND TO BLOW IT.
Maioni
SHUT UP, GARI!
OWWWWWWW

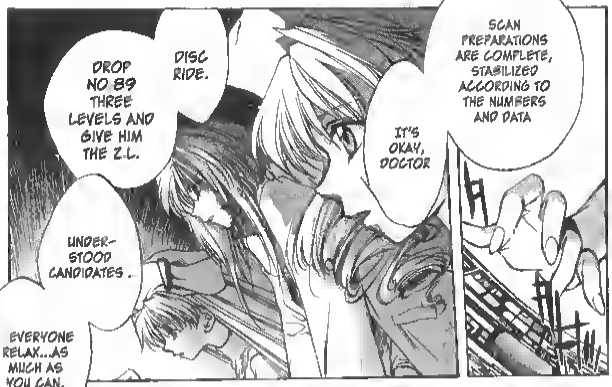
SCHOOL RULES, CHAPTER 1, PARAGRAPHS 7 THROUGH 12 ARE EXPLICIT. ANYONE EVEN WATCHING A FIGHT THAT USES EX WITHIN G.O.A. PROPERTY IS GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION
THE PENALTY IS MINUS FIVE POINTS.
AND WHEN YOU LOSE FIFTY POINTS, YOU ARE EXPELLED
IT'S HERE IN THE STUDENT GUIDE
Hmm... It's getting late.
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT IS? OUR FREEDOM?
BUT, IN EXCHANGE, WE ARE GIVEN ONE SPECIAL FREEDOM.
ZERO, THIS "SCHOOL" IS PUBLIC. ALL ACTIONS ARE MONITORED WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT
SO DON'T WATCH US!
A RIDICULOUSLY VALUABLE TOY CALLED AN INGRID. AND WE, YOU AND I, ARE TRAINED TO CONTROL IT.
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
OH, JUST A TOY. AN INGRID.
THAT'S OUR FREEDOM, ZERO.

THE LIFE OF A NEW G.O.A. CANDIDATE BEGINS WITH NUMEROUS PHYSICAL CHECKUPS.
THERE WILL BE NO BREAKS!!
OTHERWISE WE WON'T GET THE RIGHT NUMBERS AND IF YOU DON'T GET A HIGH SCORE, YOU FLUNK OUT
SO DON'T STOP, KEEP RUNNING! C'MON C'MON FASTER!
THAT'S RIGHT
NO PANTING WE'RE ONLY IN THE FIRST STAGE!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT!! FIFTY MORE KILOS!!
OH! ME?!
EIGHTY-EIGHT!!
THEY ARE EXAMINED USING NUMBERS DERIVED BY ABNORMAL CONDITIONS CREATED DURING STRENUOUS EXERCISE
THEIR PHYSICAL ABILITY IS CHECKED TO ITS LIMIT
NUMBER 88
ALL RIGHT, STUDENTS, LET'S TAKE ROLL
HERE!
NUMBER 85
NUMBER 86
HE EE EE RE!
NUMBER 87
RIGHT HERE

AH HA HA HA HA
You are so lame
.....
GYAAAAAAHH OWWWWW!
Cut it out you two
MOVE IT!!

COULD IT BE... THAT YOU KEEP GETTING ON THE INSTRUCTOR'S NERVES..?
C..
WHY---?
UNNHHH... WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO MOVE WAY MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE? UNNHHH...
!!
!
ALL RIGHT, CREEP. NO WAY I'M GONNA LOSE TO YOU!!!
PRETENDING TO BE ALL CALM!
LOOK AT HIM, THE JERK!!

TOO SLOW!! FASTER!
...REFLEXES, GRIP, ARM STRENGTH...
...SPINE, ABDOMINAL MUSCLES...
PUSH YOURSELF TO THE LIMIT!!
YES, SIR!
85!! NO BREAKS!
86! THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO!
...AND SENSE OF RHYTHM.
DANCE!
THESE RESULTS DETERMINE EACH STUDENT'S CURRICULUM.
UNNHHHHHH I'M GONNA DIE.
JUMP!
NINE SEPARATE STAGES COMPRISE THE TEST.
QUICKNESS, ENDURANCE, JUMPING ABILITY...


SCAN PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE, STABILIZED ACCORDING TO THE NUMBERS AND DATA
IT'S OKAY, DOCTOR
DISC RIDE.
DROP NO 89 THREE LEVELS AND GIVE HIM THE Z.L.
UNDER-STOOD CANDIDATES.
EVERYONE RELAX...AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

DISC RIDE.
COMMENC-ING SCAN.
IF YOU BEGIN TO FEEL SICK, RAISE YOUR HAND
WE'RE GOING TO DO A COMPLETE PHYSICAL CHECKUP NOW.

I AM NOT A RUNT!
HEY, YOU! NOT BAD...FOR A RUNT.
FINE WHATEVER
YOU HAVE A NAME?

ARE YOU SO STUPID YOU CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER YOUR CLASSMATES' NAMES.
YAMAGI KUSHIDA!
...ZERO ENNA?
SCAN

VERY BLUE...
BLUE...

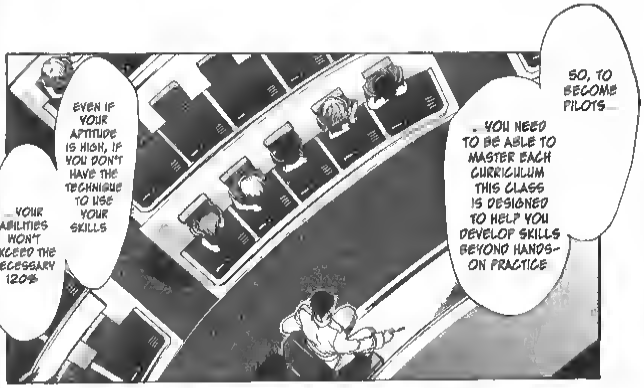
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR EYES OPEN
AND LEAVE YOUR MOUTHS OPEN TOO
UGYAAAAAAHH... WHAT IS THIS?!
RAISE BE ONE LEVEL.
THIS IS JUST PROCEDURE DON'T BE SCARED
!!
EVERY-ONE...
DO YOU SEE BLUE IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES?
IT IS BLUE...
BLUE...?

COULD HE...
...BE A "ZENOAH"? A COMPLETE BODY?
...VERY MUCH!
THANK YOU...
KLIK

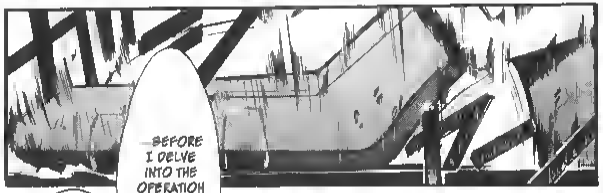
!
THE ATMIC ON NO 86'S RIGHT MIDDLE FINGER IS FALTERING
REPLACE IT IMMEDIATELY
...OR IT COULD CAUSE ACCIDENTS DURING PRACTICE THAT MAY INVOLVE THE OTHER CANDIDATES
DOCTOR
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE BUT, COULD NO 88
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE PARTICLE OF ATMIC IN HIS BODY.
NUMBER 88?
PLEASE LOOK AT THIS
WHAT?

ZERO! WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME FOR A SECOND?!
W-WAIT!! YOU CAN'T GO AHEAD OF ME!!
ALL HUMANS! ZERO! THAT MEANS YOU TOO.
AAAHHH!! I HATE BEING IGNORED!!
...
Please I'm hungry Yamato kun
Aren't you hungry, too? Hey, come on.
RUMBLE
GRRWL
I MEAN, I'M SURE YOU'LL JUST FORGET, BUT YOU GOTTA LISTEN!
NO. YOU'RE OVERWEIGHT FORGET IT.
TELL YOUR STOMACH TO SHUT UP!
GRUMBLE
ZEROOOOOOOOOOOOO!!

WOW, THEY IMPLANTED THAT ATMIC FAST.
ALRIGHT!! EXCELLENT!!
THAT'S G O.A. FOR YOU! THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY!
"ATOMIC" STUFF?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT.
NO WAY SINCE THE CRISIS OF SYSTEMS, ALL HUMANS ARE BORN WITH SOME KIND OF DEFICIENCY AND WE ALL NEED ATMIC TO COMPENSATE FOR IT..
AH!
NAH I DON'T HAVE ANY OF THAT STUFF
YOU HAVE SOME TOO, DON'T YOU?
You know basically, [illegible]
NOT ATOMIC, MORON ATMIC!!

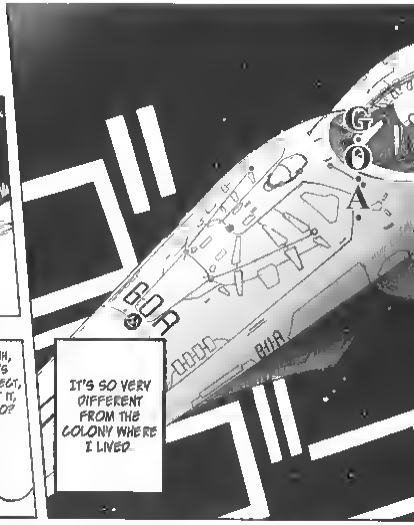

SO, TO BECOME PILOTS...
...YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO MASTER EACH CURRICULUM. THIS CLASS IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU DEVELOP SKILLS BEYOND HANDS-ON PRACTICE.
EVEN IF YOUR APTITUDE IS HIGH, IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE TECHNIQUE TO USE YOUR SKILLS...
...YOUR ABILITIES WON'T EXCEED THE NECESSARY 120%.

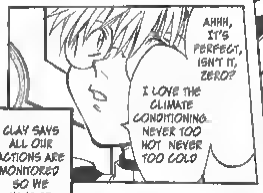
WE BEGIN WITH STRUCTURES INSIDE G.O.A.
A MAJOR PART OF G.O.A., AND THE COLONIES DEALS WITH THE END HE (BLAHBLAH BLAH).
INSIDE ARE THE PRO-INGS, WHICH ARE USED TO PRACTICE (BLAHBLAH BLAH).
CLASSROOM


...BEFORE I DELVE INTO THE OPERATION OF (BLAHBLAH BLAH).

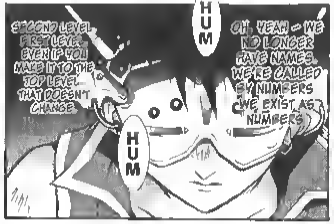
FINALLY, IT IS NECESSARY FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHAT AN INGRID IS.
WE BEGIN WITH THE PRACTICE MACHINES. IF I WERE TO ENTER ONE SUCH MACHINE...

SO MANY BOYS MY AGE HERE... SO MANY PEOPLE LIKE ME...

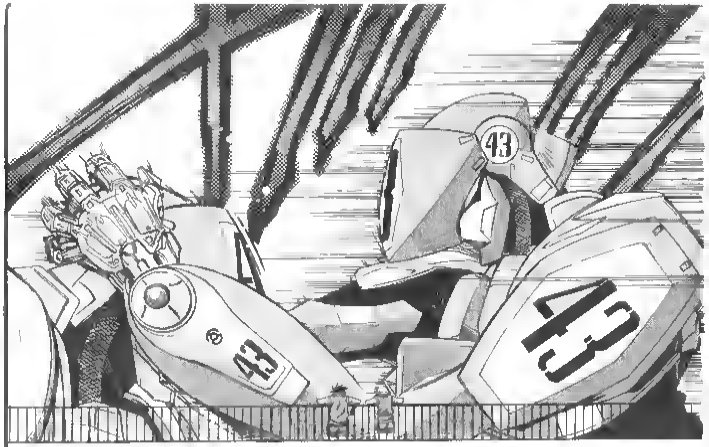

G.O.A.
IT'S SO VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE COLONY WHERE I LIVED...


AHHH, IT'S PERFECT, ISN'T IT, ZERO?
I LOVE THE CLIMATE CONDITIONING. NEVER TOO HOT. NEVER TOO COLD.
CLAY SAYS ALL OUR ACTIONS ARE MONITORED SO WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.

EVERYTHING HERE IS REGIMENTED. WE EVEN TAKE BATHS IN SHIFTS.
MYSTERY MEAT. BUT IT'S EDIBLE.
THIS TASTES, UM... WEIRD!
What is it?
BUT WE GET TWO MEALS A DAY, THE PORTIONS, THE MENU, AND THE TIMES ARE ALL SET.


HUM
HUM
SECOND LEVEL, FIRST LEVEL. EVEN IF YOU MAKE IT TO THE TOP LEVEL, THAT DOESN'T CHANGE.
OH, YEAH - WE NO LONGER HAVE NAMES. WE'RE CALLED EXAMINEES. WE EXIST AS NUMBERS.

KYUI
KYUING
EVERY DAY IT'S EXAMINATIONS, TRAINING FOR EXAMINATIONS, ADJUSTMENTS, ADJUSTMENTS, AND ADJUSTING FOR ADJUSTMENTS.

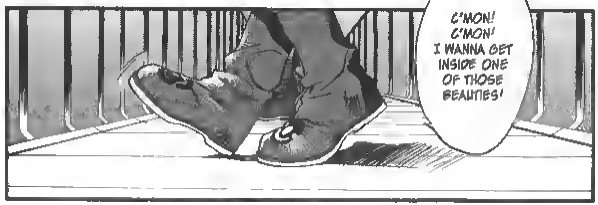

43
43
43

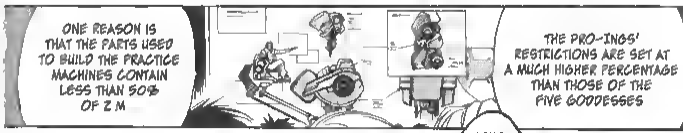
C'MON. WHY DO WE HAVE TO STUDY? (BORRRRRING!)
WHY CAN'T WE JUST RIDE THEM?!
ENNNOUUGHHHH!!!!!
I WANNA RIDE IT NOW!!
I wanna ride
I wanna ride

WELL, I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER
Since I was only a kid I've been in a hurry.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
IS IT TRUE?!

.. UMMM, I HEARD YOU WERE INSIDE EEVA LEENA.
ZERO..

44
43


C'MON! C'MON! I WANNA GET INSIDE ONE OF THOSE BEAUTIES!


ONE REASON IS THAT THE PARTS USED TO BUILD THE PRACTICE MACHINES CONTAIN LESS THAN 50% OF Z M
THE PRO-INGS' RESTRICTIONS ARE SET AT A MUCH HIGHER PERCENTAGE THAN THOSE OF THE FIVE GODDESSES

I WANT YOU TO THINK IT IMPOSSIBLE
TO MOVE THE PRO-ING WITH A REACTION SPEED THAT MATCHES YOUR THOUGHTS

WHAT THE FIXED SCANNER READS IS INDIRECT. THIS IS BECAUSE IT TAKES ITS READINGS FROM THE MOBILE SCANNER AND THE MOVEMENTS OF THE MUSCLES
Ka-Boom

ZERO...?
LIKE IT WAS MY OWN HAND--
IS LIMITLESS?
BUT I REMEMBER THIS MUCH
IT MOVED-- I MEAN, I MOVED THE INGRID'S HAND
COULD THIS MEAN ZERO'S ADAPTATION ABILITY...
HOW COULD HE ADAPT?
UNLESS...
I FELT REEEEEEALLY SICK AT FIRST, BUT...
--HOW DO I SAY IT?-- LIKE... MY HEART BEAT REALLY FAST!!
...LIKE WHEN I SAW THAT WHITE INGRID FOR THE FIRST TIME--
BUT DIDN'T THE Z'SKIN READ AN ERROR...?
IT SHOULD HAVE REJECTED HIM.

YOU'RE LATE.
WE'RE LATE BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T LET US HAVE ANY HANDS-ON PRACTICE, SO WE WENT TO WATCH THE PRO-INGS!
THEN WHOSE FAULT IS IT?!
ZERO, YOU IDIOT!
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO BE LATE TO CLASS. EXPLAIN YOURSELF, CANDIDATE 88!
ONE MINUTE AND TWENTY-FIVE SECONDS LATE!
UMMM. IT'S NOT MY FAULT!!
88 AND 89 YOU'LL WRITE A REPORT REFLECTING ON WHAT YOU DID
TODAY, WE'RE HAVING A DIFFERENT LESSON. FOLLOW ME.
WE WEREN'T TRESPASSING OR ANYTHING
THAT PLACE IS OFF-LIMITS TO NEW STUDENTS
HANDS-ON? YOU WENT TO THE TRAINING FLOOR?
CLAY GOT THE PASSWORD

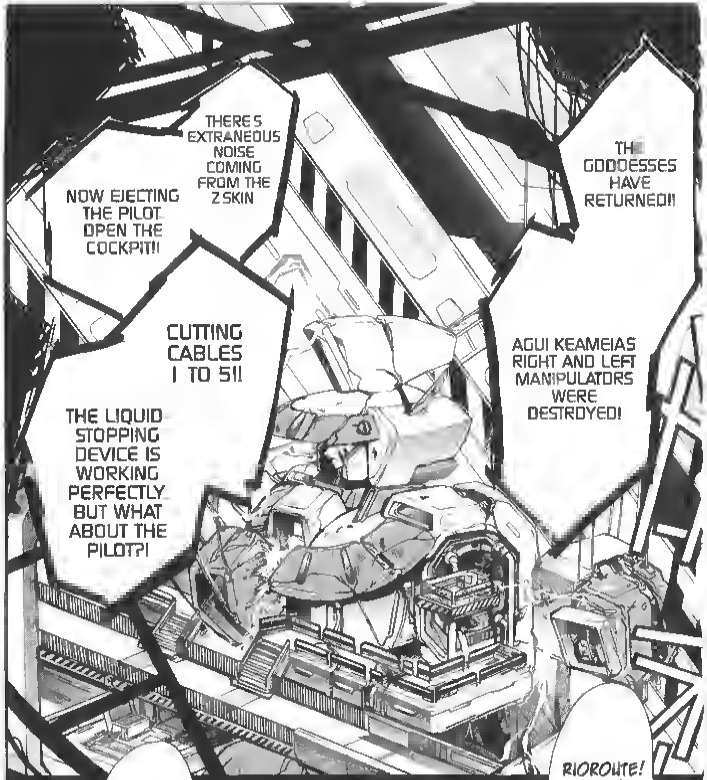
WE'RE GONNA BE LATE FOR OUR NEXT CLASS!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

PRACTICE IS OVER!!
NUMBERS 45 AND 46, YOU'RE NEXT.

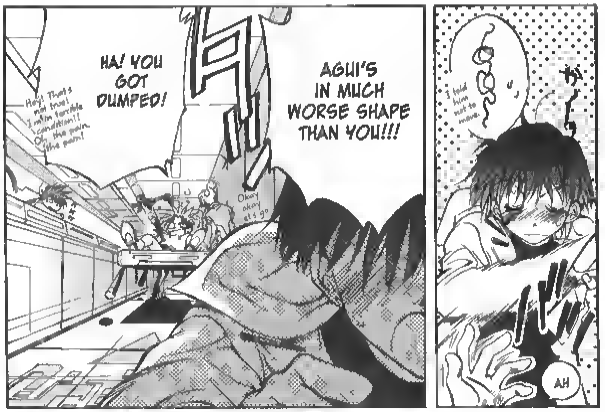
Zero Enna

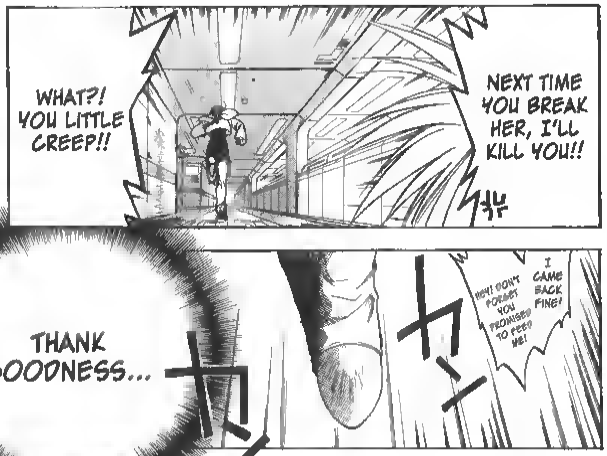
age 15	type E0	156cm	48kg

YES, CANDIDATE 88— ANOTHER ONE
TRRLK
BUT YOU KNOW...
YOU'RE TAKING A TEST
ANOTHER ONE?!
UMMM, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
...THIS ONE IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN THE ONES YOU'VE HAD UNTIL NOW.
HANDS-ON TEST NUMBER ONE!

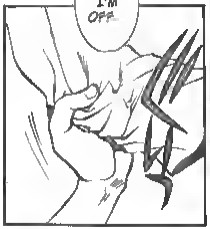

THERE'S EXTRANEOUS NOISE COMING FROM THE Z SKIN
NOW EJECTING THE PILOT. OPEN THE COCKPIT!!
THE GODDESSES HAVE RETURNED!!
CUTTING CABLES 1 TO 5!!
AGUI KEAMEIAS RIGHT AND LEFT MANIPULATORS WERE DESTROYED!
THE LIQUID STOPPING DEVICE IS WORKING PERFECTLY. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PILOT?!
RIO?! ARE YOU OKAY?!
RIOROUTE! RIO! CAN YOU HEAR ME?

M.H 06 WEAK POINT

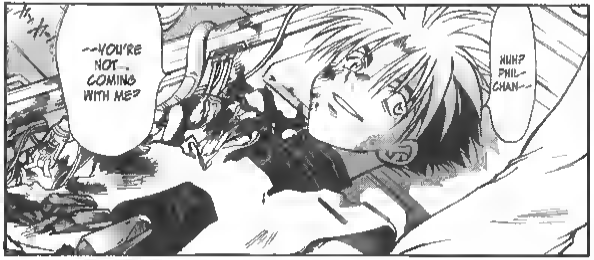

HA! YOU GOT DUMPED!
AGUI'S IN MUCH WORSE SHAPE THAN YOU!!!
Hey!! That's not true! I'm in terrible condition!! Oh, the pain! The pain!
Okay, okay, it's 3?
I told him not to smile
AH


WHAT?! YOU LITTLE CREEP!!
NEXT TIME YOU BREAK HER, I'LL KILL YOU!!
THANK GOODNESS...
HEY! DON'T FORGET YOU PROMISED TO PEE!!
I CAME BACK FINE!

DON'T MOVE IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT


ALL RIGHT, I'M OFF

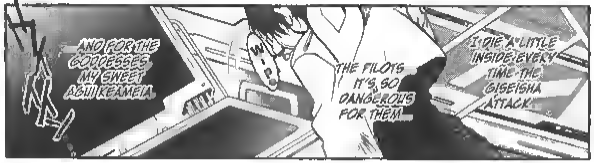
I-I DON'T THINK YOU'RE IN ANY DANGER, BUT UNTIL THE BLEEDING STOPS, DON'T MOVE
WE'LL FIX YOU RIGHT UP!! OKAY?!

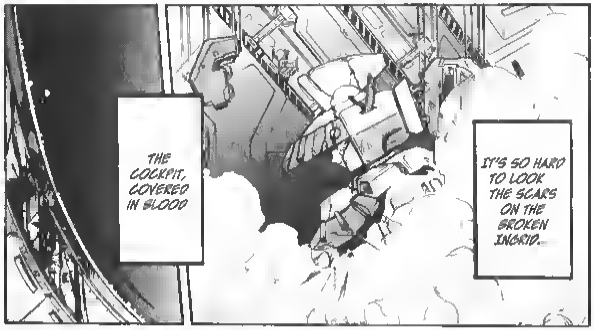

--YOU'RE NOT--, COMING WITH ME?
HUH? PHIL-CHAN--

WHAT SORT OF A BATTLEFIELD ARE THEY FIGHTING IN...?
EVERY TIME I SEE HIM TAKE OFF...
...I PRAY I'LL SEE HIM AGAIN.
BUT IT'S MY JOB TO MAKE YOU STRONGER...
TO PROTECT YOU. TO PROTECT HIM...
STRONGER...!

I-IT WAS SO CLOSE.

HE DIDN'T DIE...!
THANK GOODNESS
THANK GOODNESS


AND FOR THE GODDESSES MY SWEET AGUU KAMEIA
THE PILOTS IT'S SO DANGEROUS FOR THEM...
A LITTLE INSIDE EVERY TIME THE GIGEISHA ATTACK...


THE COCKPIT, COVERED IN BLOOD
IT'S SO HARD TO LOOK THE SCARS ON THE BROKEN INGRID...

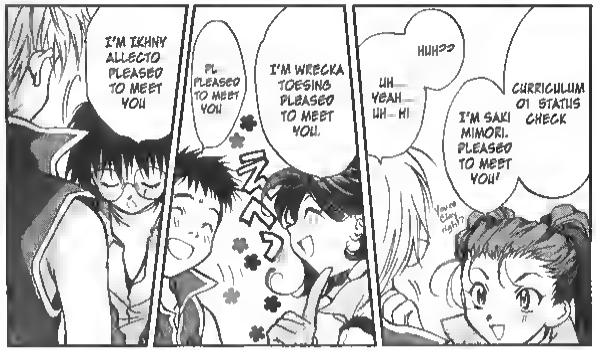
BASED ON THE RESULTS OF YOUR TEST SCORES, I'VE CHOSEN YOUR COMPATIBLE PARTNER
THEY FUNCTION AS SUPPORT FOR YOUR INSIDE AND FOR YOU
STEP ONE IS TO PAIR EACH PILOT CANDIDATE WITH A REPAIRER CANDIDATE YOU WILL LEARN TOGETHER AND TAKE CLASSES TOGETHER
GIRLS ...?
HOW RUDE
.. BUT FROM THIS DAY FORTH, YOU WILL HAVE HANDS-ON TRAINING
UNTIL NOW, YOUR STUDIES HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO THE CLASSROOM. YOU'VE READ, WRITTEN PAPERS

AND BY THE TIME I'M DONE, BOTH OF YOU WILL BE BREATHING IN SYNC UNDERSTAND?
SHE'S A GIRL
TODAY IS HANDS-ON TEST NUMBER ONE
BE PREPARED. YOU'VE NEVER FACED ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE
BEEP

MEET YOUR NEW PARTNERS!
OKAY!
どん
はん

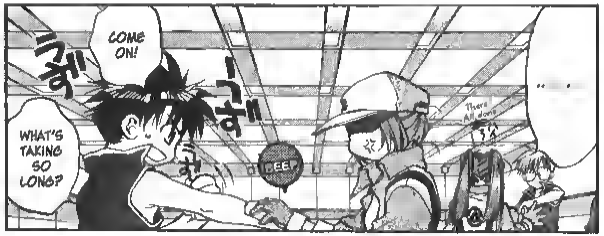
...W...
WHOOOAAAA!
AWESOME!

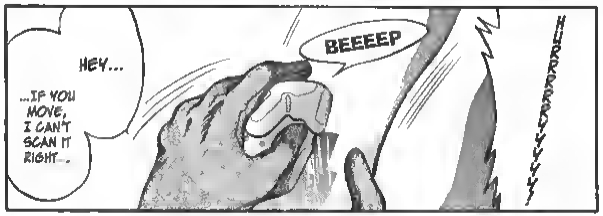
LIKE THIS?
EVERYONE, SHOW YOUR MARKINGS!
SHUT UP, 88
FIRST, I HAVE TO MATCH YOU WITH YOUR PARTNERS.
I'LL GO! MEMEMEE! I'LL GO FIRST!


I'M IKHNY ALLECTO PLEASED TO MEET YOU
PL PLEASED TO MEET YOU
I'M WRECKA TOESING PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
HUH??
UH— YEAH— UH— HI
I'M SAKI MIMORI. PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
CURRICULUM 01 STATUS CHECK

I'M SMALLER THAN HER...?
I'M TUKASA KUSCHA. PLEASED TO MEET YOU

OKAY, I'M GOING TO RIDE TH—
YEAH! HELLO, HELLO.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
KIZNA TOWRYK.
—UH—
OWAH!
コン


COME ON!
WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?
BEEP
...


HEY...
...IF YOU MOVE, I CAN'T SCAN IT RIGHT...
BEEEEP
HURRRRRRYYYY

!
DEEP
DEEP
DEEP

THERE!!
NEXT, YOUR SHOULDER

AHEM! SHALL WE DO THAT AGAIN? GREET ME PROPERLY!!
AND YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT IF I DON'T DO YOUR STATUS CHECK--
--SOMEBODY DOESN'T TAKE THE TEST. ONE GUESS WHO.

OKAY OKAY OKAY!
LOOK AT IT! HURRY!!
COME ON, COME ON, COME ON!

THIS GIRL!

...
Wh, what?
YOUR...
EA...
...RS!!

!!
THIS IS IN THE WAY. TAKE IT OFF!
...AH...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT?!
GOO! WHAT A JERK!!
I...
...I HATE YOU!!!
IDIOT!!
STUPID STUPID STUPID!!
...KIZNA-SAN!!
KIZNA-SAN, WAIT...
LET G...

...OW WHY WHY HEY!
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE REALLY ARE AN IDIOT.
LEAVE HER ALONE, JERK.
EVER CONSIDER SHE'S SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT THEM?
Though I think... Hmm, very interesting.
AND THERE YOU GO EXPOSING THEM FOR EVERYONE TO SEE.
SHE WAS OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO HIDE HER EARS
BUT... WHY DO I..?!
NO 88, GO GET YOUR PARTNER
FIND HER, NUMBER 88
GRR, YOU'RE TOO RUDE TO LAN
Why didn't anyone tell me?
HUH? SHE WAS HIDING THEM!?

PILOTS NEED REPAIRERS!
IF ONE IS MISSING, NO ONE WILL LEARN ANYTHING!!
IF YOU TAKE EVEN A SECOND MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES, YOU'LL BOTH BE MARKED ABSENT!!
WAAHH!!
ONE! TWO!
SHEESH... DAMN TROUBLE-MAKER...
INSTRUC-TOR!
WHAT?
NO 85, ROOSE SAWAMURA, IS OVERWEIGHT HE'S 15 KILOS OVER.
I'M PUTTING HIM ON A DIET
I'LL MAKE SURE HE LOSES WEIGHT.
FINE WHATEVER.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT!
HELP ME, YAMAGI-KUUUUUUUUUUN!
So he was overweight
ADIEU, SAWAMURA.
I'LL SEE YOU WHEN YOU'RE THIN!
NOOOOO!
ONE DOWN!
AHHHHH
HE HEH
SO YOU WILL BE ONE STEP AHEAD
WELL NOW, YOU THREE PAIRS ARE ALL THAT'S LEFT

DAMN. WHERE IS SHE...?!
GGRR RRRRR ...
DAMN!
KIZNA! WHERE ARE YOU? HEY?!
THIS IS SUCH A WASTE OF TIME.
!!
KIZNAAA!
'BOUT TIME!

C'MON! TH...THERE'S NO TIME...
HURRY!
HE'LL MARK US ABSENT!
GET LOST.
I DON'T CARE. I'M NOT GOING.
BUT THEY DON'T BOTHER ME.
JUST A
HEY!
LOOK, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HIDE THEM, IT'S OKAY
KYA!

I JUST WANT TO BE A PILOT!!
BUT IF I DON'T HAVE YOU WITH ME, I CAN'T EVEN TAKE THE TEST!!
SO, IF WE DON'T GO TO CLASS TOGETHER, I'LL GET IN TROUBLE!!

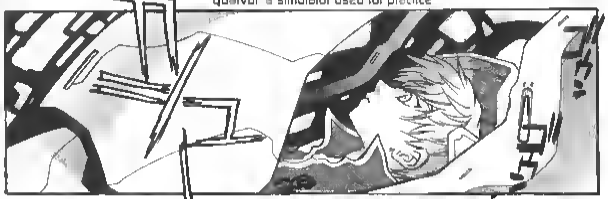
HEY!!
ORYAAH!
STILL---
HE IS SO WEIRD.
PUT ME DOWN!
QUIET. WE'RE LATE.
STOP! HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PUT ME DOWN, YOU IDIOT!
YOU CAN'T CARRY ME LIKE I'M A... THING!
YOU'RE MAKING ME SICK!

KIZNA TOWRYK
age 15
type OX
154cm
kg

YOU ARE THE FIRST CANDIDATE TO TAKE THE HANDS-ON TEST
YOU'VE ENTERED THE PROCESSES... ER, CONTROLS?
I HEAR YOU
NO.87, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
VERY GOOD
YES.
STARTING UP NOW.
NO.87.
...AS OF THIS MOMENT--
--YOU ARE A PRO-ING "PILOT".
SHI-KI

I'LL RUN THE TEST HERE, PILOT, CONCENTRATE ON THE CONTROLS
CODE CONFIRMED NOW STARTING THE SIMULATION
SETTING QUARVUL* CONFIGURATION... NO PROBLEMS
KYUUUUUUU
CHANGING TO INNER SUPPORT
GUCK

*Quarvul: a simulator used for practice



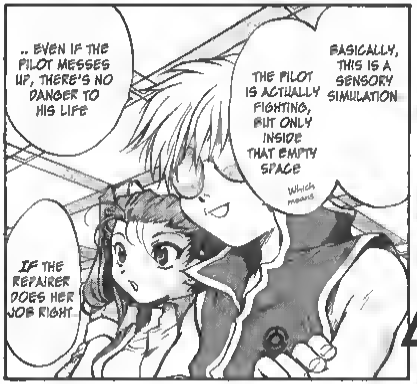
STARTING GUARVUL!
SWITCHING CONTROLS
NO?!
IS IT MY
A HEARTBEAT . ?

INSTRUCTOR, THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE PLEASE GIVE THE GO-AHEAD
PILOT, CLOSE YOUR EYES AND RELAX YOUR BODY
ALL PARTS CONNECTED, NO PROBLEMS
FIRST CLASS INSTRUCTOR, AZUMA HIJIKATA, GRANTING PERMISSION TO START GUARVUL. 008-87000
CANDIDATE 87, BEGIN.
M.H
HEAVEN KNOWS

THIS IS...
...ME?!
CONCEN-
TRATE ON
THE TEST!
PILOT!!
87!!!

A SIMPLE GAME
OR SO IT SEEMS.
IT FEELS REAL
EXCELLENT
HOZUKI

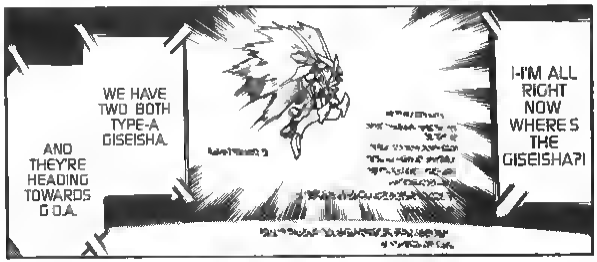
I SEE IT SO THAT'S HOW IT WORKS
THERE'S ONE HEADED AT YOU!!!


.. EVEN IF THE PILOT MESSES UP, THERE'S NO DANGER TO HIS LIFE
THE PILOT IS ACTUALLY FIGHTING, BUT ONLY INSIDE THAT EMPTY SPACE
BASICALLY, THIS IS A SENSORY SIMULATION
IF THE REPAIRER DOES HER JOB RIGHT

I'M READY, IKHNY.

SO THAT'S
HOW IT FEELS

WE'VE ALREADY STARTED PILOT
YOU'VE GOT TO HURRY AND FOCUS.
PILOT!!


I-I'M ALL RIGHT NOW WHERE'S THE GISEISHA?!
WE HAVE TWO BOTH TYPE-A GISEISHA.
AND THEY'RE HEADING TOWARDS G.O.A.

THEY'RE AFTER THE PLANET ZION!
NOTE THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT
THE ONLY CONDITION TO END THE TEST IS TO STOP THE INVASION

THE BETTER THE PILOT CAN FIGHT!!
SO, BASICALLY, THE FASTER THE REPAIRER'S SUPPORT...
BUT THE PRO-ING REPAIR ABILITY COMES DIRECTLY FROM THE REPAIRERS' EXPERIENCE!
THE REAL INORIDS HAVE ALWAYS HAD THAT ABILITY
I SEE
おおっ!
ONE ENEMY DOWN!!
I mean, you're real cool.
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE FAKE NERVES, WHEN IT HURTS, IT STILL HURTS
IT IS NOT VERY PLEASANT TRUST ME
WELL, IT IS JUST A SIMULATION, SO THERE'S NO EFFECT ON HIS ACTUAL BODY, BUT .
HUH?!
THE FEELING IS IMMEDIATELY DELETED, IT'S THE SAME PRINCIPLE AS SELF-HEALING
But there are limits.
THE REPAIRER SEVERS THE LINE THAT TRANSMITS THE PAIN AND IMMEDIATELY REPLACES IT WITH A NEW LINE
SHUUU
LINE 0-2 CUT NO NEED FOR SUPPORT YET

NEXT!! NO 89, CLAY, GO!!
EEHH?!
YOU MEAN ME?!

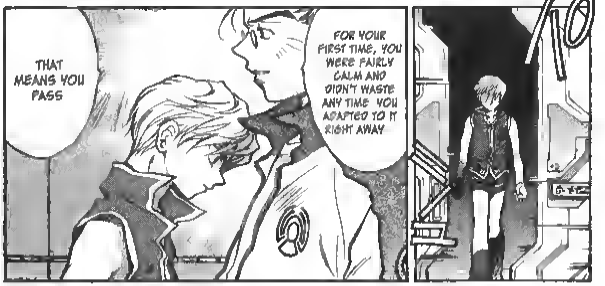
HEH!
HA HA HA HA!

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT CLAY?
IT'S JUST LIKE OUTER SPACE!
I THOUGHT THIS WAS A SIMULATION!
WHAT IS THIS?!

SECOND ENEMY DOWN!!
THE TEST IS OVER!

THIS CURRICULUM IS MADE...
...TO TEACH YOU WHAT A REAL BATTLE IS LIKE

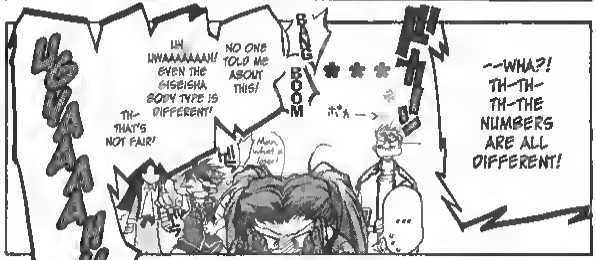
...ALL RIGHT, 87, YOU'RE DONE.
PHEW...

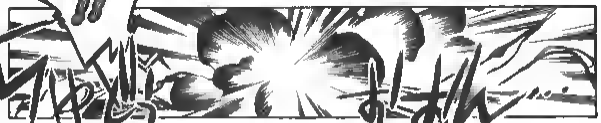

THAT MEANS YOU PASS
FOR YOUR FIRST TIME, YOU WERE FAIRLY CALM AND DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME YOU ADAPTED TO IT RIGHT AWAY
10

B-B-BUT--YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO FIGHT WITHOUT ANY INFORMATION
ARE YOU AN IDIOT? WHY DID YOU THINK THE TEST WOULD BE THE SAME?!
EXCUSE ME? THAT'S WHAT PILOTS DO!!
Killed in seconds
NEXT!!
NEXT IS...
FORGET IT! YOU'LL DO IT AGAIN LATER!!
ME!

SORRY, HEAD-KUN, BUT I'M GOING TO USE YOU
I CAREFULLY STUDIED YOUR FIGHTING TECHNIQUES
I . I SEE THEM.
IT IS NOW HURRY AND FOCUS!!
THE GISEISHA'S MOVING IN!

Bring it on!!
NOTHING GETS BY CLAY CLIFF FORTRAN!
YOUR ARC OF DESCENT, YOUR VELOCITY NUMBERS!! I EVEN MEMORIZED YOUR COUNTER ATTACKS!


UH, WHAAAAAAAA! EVEN THE GISEISHA BODY TYPE IS DIFFERENT!
NO ONE TOLD ME ABOUT THIS!
BIG BOOM
TH-THAT'S NOT FAIR!
--WHA?! TH-TH-TH-THE NUMBERS ARE ALL DIFFERENT!

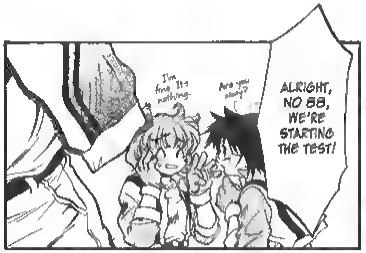


ARE YOU OKAY, KIZNA-SAN?!
HOW LONG WERE YOU PLANNING TO CARRY ME?!
Oh yeah?
SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME.
GAH!
!!
KIZNA TOWRYK!!
I APOLOGIZE FOR RUNNING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS!!
I'M PREPARED TO START THE TEST IMMEDIATELY!!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?! TELL ME!
I'M A REPAIRER.

I'LL GO NEXT!!
I BROUGHT MY PARTNER!!

KIZNA-SAN!
ZERO!
.....!!

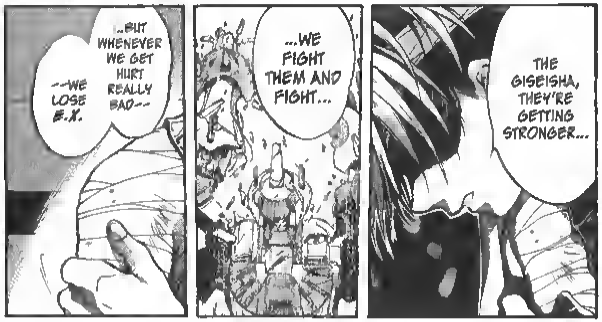
YOU'LL BE A PILOT.
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING...
...OF A LONG... LONG BATTLE.

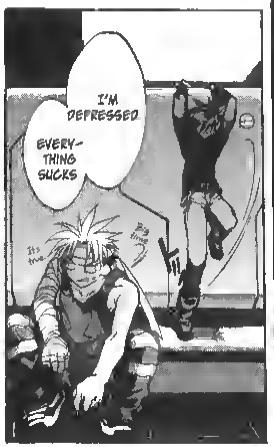

I'm fine. It's nothing.
Are you sure?
ALRIGHT, NO 88, WE'RE STARTING THE TEST!

BE CAREFUL. YOU WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE.

IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM IF I DON'T KNOW MY PARTNER'S NAME
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME YOUR NAME.

DON'T RUN AWAY ANYMORE.
ZERO ENNA!
HUH?
YOU KNOW YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT.





*PHIL = PHILPHILEORA

AS LONG THE ATMIC CORE IS OKAY—
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THE INGRIDS GET BEAT UP, THEY CAN BE FIXED UNLIKE US
OF COURSE, AGUI'S STILL BETTER OFF THAN I AM.

Ernn Laties

ZENDAN-C-R-ERNN-LATIES

02
01
LEVEL 2 CURRICULUM NUMBER 88 CODE CONFIRMED
PILOT, ZERO ENNA
REPAIRER, KIZNA TOWRYK. CHANGING TO INNER SUPPORT
SETTING QUARVUL CONFIGU-RATION.. CLEAR
CODE CON-FIRMED
twitch
NOW STARTING THE SIMULA-TION!!
THERE'S NO LIMIT

M108 THERE'S NO LIMIT
I'M... FLYING!!
MY CONSCIOUSNESS...
IT'S... UHHH.. SEPARATING?
INTO SPACE?

BEGINNING THE TEST.
PILOT INTO "GUARVUL"!
NOW START-ING!!
VZHTT

!
SH- SHUT UP! I REMEMBER!!
YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNED HOW TO CONTROL IT IN CLASS!! DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT!
My eyes?
SHUT UP?! START THE TEST?!
HOW DARE YOU ORDER ME AROUND LIKE THAT!?
ALL RIGHT. HURRY. START THE TEST!!
I DON'T NEED YOU TELLING ME WHEN TO START IT!

!!
WHA...
.. WHAT IS THIS...?
LIWA WA WA!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?! I CAN'T SEE A THING!!
I'M STARTING THE TEST.
OPEN YOUR EYES!! ZERO, DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?
THE PILOT HAS COMPLETED BOARDING QUARYUL.
I'M.. I'M DISAPPE ..!

I FEEL SICK...
When I'm gonna throw up
ZERO? WH-WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU!?
BW!
BLEAH!!
...UH...
GULP
MAYBE THIS WILL. THE GISEISHA ARE COMING!!
GET UP!! COME ON!!
THAT'S NOT HELPING
HUUUUUH...
HEY!! NONONO! YOU GOTTA HANG IN THERE!
You're a man aren't you?!
AN!
CA-WHZ
EWWW! I'M CUTTING OFF THE MIC!
I AM SO GONNA THROW UP--
IF HE'S AFRAID OF ZERO GRAVITY, HE CAN'T BE A PILOT
WHAT?!
INSTRUCTOR!! WHY DID YOU SAY THAT?

Zero - HURRY!
There are two type-B Giseisha
They're heading straight for Zion from behind G.O.A.II
---HAVE YOU OVERCOME YOUR FEAR OF ZERO GRAVITY?
Underneath you is space. There's nothing there.
NO. 88--
TAKE THE SHORTEST ROUTE!! I'LL GIVE YOU DIRECTIONS...
GOT IT!!
C'MON YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT!!
THERE'S...
...NOTHING!!
THERE'S
...NOTHING.
!!
Uh!

KYAH...!

...BUT DON'T TRY TO GET TO KNOW ME.
IKHNV, I KNOW YOU ARE MY SUPPORT...

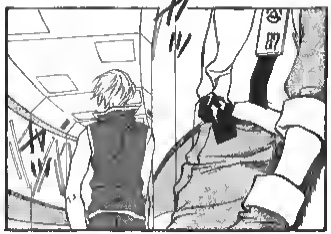
UM...
...YOU SHOULDN'T LEAVE IN THE MIDDLE..

...HIEAD-SAN!

FOR JUST A SECOND, I PICKED UP AN ABNORMAL MIND-WAVE DISRUPTION.
IF THAT KEEPS UP...
.. UM... DURING THE QUARVIL TEST...

Forget that, Zero Behind you!!
DO WA AA AA HH
DAMMIT, I SAID, I'M SICK..
KYUHHHHH
THAT HURT, YOU LITTLE CREEP!
!!

UNHHHHHH!
WHY AM I SOOOOO SICKKKKKK?



BUT HIEAD--- IT'S DANGER-OUS..
...

ZERO!!

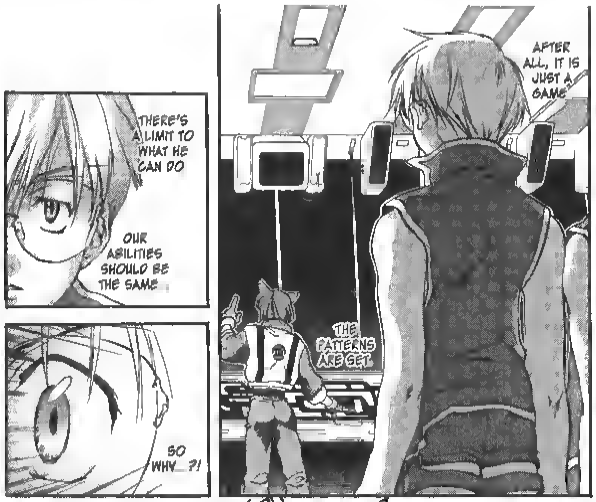
!!
IT'S ALMOST AT ZION
ZERO, HURRY!!
YOU'VE GOT TO GO FASTER.
ZERO, WATCH IT! THERE'S SOMETHING IN YOUR WAY!!
CIRCLE IT! YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME
Zero!
Focus more energy into speed!!
NO WAY! THAT'S GONNA SLOW ME DOWN!!
DON'T ARGUE WITH ME!!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DODGE IT!!

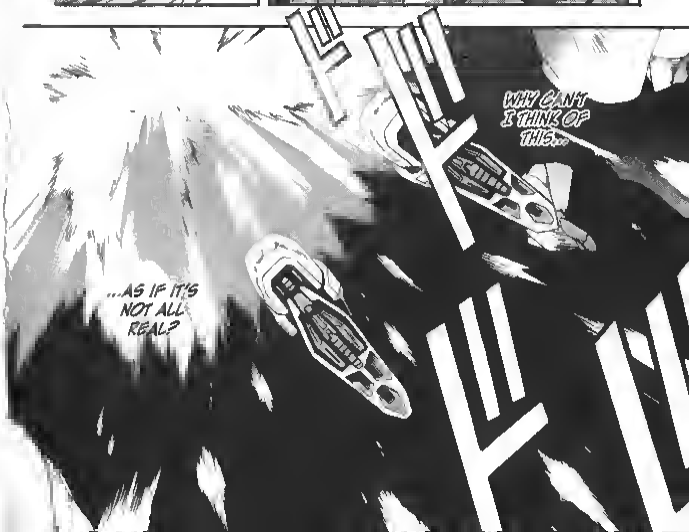
I...
pant
pant
pant
You're gonna be okay, right?!
One Giselsha down!! You did it.
Only one left! How are you doing?
DON'T THROW UP!"
EVEN IF THIS IS A FAKE FIGHT
I...I've got nothing left to throw up!!
I-I'LL BE OKAY. WHERE'S THE NEXT GISEISHA?!
KIZNAAA!!!

...MIGHT ACTUALLY MAKE PRETTY GOOD PARTNERS.
THESE TWO.
...BUT TO MAKE SURE HE CAN'T GO FULL THROTTLE, SHE LOCKS IT AT 80%. HEH HEH.
HA. SHE TELLS THAT SIMPLE PILOT.
TO DO WHAT HE WANTS...
HERE I GO!!
HE'S HAVING FUN...
whisper

GO AHEAD! HAVE YOUR FUN.
OKAY. WE'LL DO IT YOUR WAY.
GO THE WAY I SHOWED YOU!
GOO! YOU IDIOT...
I can't hear you! Just relax!
GO AS FAST AS YOU CAN
I'LL ADJUST THE SETTINGS! NOW TRY AND MOVE!!

NOT YET!!
NOT YET!!
NOT YET!
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING MISSING!!
ZERO--
--I FOUND IT!!
THIS ISN'T WHAT A PILOT IS!
THIS ISN'T RIGHT!!


THERE'S A LIMIT TO WHAT HE CAN DO
OUR ABILITIES SHOULD BE THE SAME
SO WHY...?!
THE PATTERNS ARE SET
AFTER ALL, IT IS JUST A GAME


...AS IF IT'S NOT ALL REAL?
WHY CAN'T I THINK OF THIS...

THIS...
VZT
ZRK
SZZT
...WILL FINISH IT OFF!!

...IT WAS LIKE A CHANT....!!
EVER SINCE I SAW THAT WHITE INGRID...
I KNEW I WOULD BE A PILOT!!
JUST A LITTLE MORE...
A LITTLE CLOSER AND I'LL BE IN FIRING RANGE...!
EVERY DAY!
EVERY HOUR, EVERY MINUTE...
THERE!!

ALL RIGHT. YAMAGI, YOU'RE NEXT.
YES, SIR.
YOU WERE PERFECT.
THE TEST IS OVER! ZERO, COME BACK.
I'M NOT GONNA LOSE!
NOT TO YOU!
EVER!!

!!
I WONDER WHO IT WAS... JUST NOW...
HUH? NOTHING. A... THOUGHT FLEW INTO MY HEAD...
WHAT'S WRONG, ERTS?
SECOND VICTIM DOWN!!
TEST COMPLETE!!

?!
YOUR EX REACTION IS SHOWING IN YOUR HAIR!!
IF THE INSTRUCTOR FINDS OUT, HE'LL KILL YOU!!
HOLD ON!! DON'T MOVE.
C'MON LET ME LOOK AT IT!
!!
AAAAAH!! YOU'RE HURT
?!
!!
NOW IT LOOKS LIKE NORMAL.
OKAY!
IT'S GONE!
STARTING GUARD!!~
KYAAA AAAAA AAAA AAHH!!
Pervert!
THANK GOOON...
COUGH

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS WORRIED ABOUT IT, YAMAGI-CHAN.
I KNOW! YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP SAYING IT!
YEAH YEAH
IT'S OKAY. I DIDN'T THROW UP INSIDE!
OH, YAMAGI!
!!
YEAH.
ZERO! GOOD JOB!
カリ
!!
!!
YOU DID REALLY WELL...

.. I'M SORRY FOR KICKING YOU.
I have strange reflexes
IT RAISES YOUR BATTLE ABILITY, BUT NOT FOR LONG.
FOR JUST A MOMENT, YOUR HAIR TURNS 'BLUE'.

SO? HOW WAS YOUR FIRST EXPERIENCE?
First you need to overcome a fear
HEY! YOU WANT TO BE A PILOT, RIGHT?

ARE YOU REALLY APOLOGIZING?
YES, I AM! BUT I WANT YOU TO APOLOGIZE TOO!
WHY DO I...
They're getting along well
You're cruel

WELL, IT...
Hmm
...WASN'T A REAL INGRID.

AND IF YOU USE YOUR E.X. EVERY SINGLE TIME YOU FIGHT, YOU'LL LOSE IT THAT MUCH FASTER!
FIRST THING, YOU NEED TO COMPLETELY OVERCOME THAT FEAR OF ZERO GRAVITY!!

DAMN, HE FOUND OUT.

HEY, NO. 88!
WHAT'S WITH HER? SHE IS SO... DAMN, I DON'T GET HER I REALLY DON'T
First she's mad then she hugs me then she hits me
?
?
?

AN E-X -- OR EXAX ABILITY-- REACTION IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR BATTLE SENSES ARE HEIGHTENED

ALL RIGHT! START THE TEST!!
AND WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, USING EX
I CAN'T GET OVER IT JUST LIKE THAT

EVERYONE, BATTLE STATIONS!!
A GISEISHA HAS APPEARED IN SECTOR 22 EE.
THE COMBAT ZONE IS RESTRICTED TO SECTOR 23 PREPARE FOR BATTLE!!
PILOTS PREPARE FOR BOARDING!!
PREPARATION FOR BATTLE COMPLETE!!
ALL RIGHT!
THIS MY FIRST TIME IN BATTLE WITH YOU!
SO.
..TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME!

Hmm
ANYWAY, IT WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHEN I RODE BEFORE
THIS WAS FUN, BUT ..
I MEAN, SHE WASN'T THERE..
NHNNN HOW SHOULD I PUT IT? I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT.
..WHAT I WANT TO PILOT--
--IS, WELL.
...IS AN INGRID! NOT A PRO-ING.
A REAL GODDESS!
.....

I CAN STILL FIGHT.
...IT'S ALL RIGHT.
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT..
...YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...
NOW..
YES .
...I CAN GO NOW.
...CROW REVOARD.
..WHO REMEMBERS 'ME'...
...AS 'ME'...

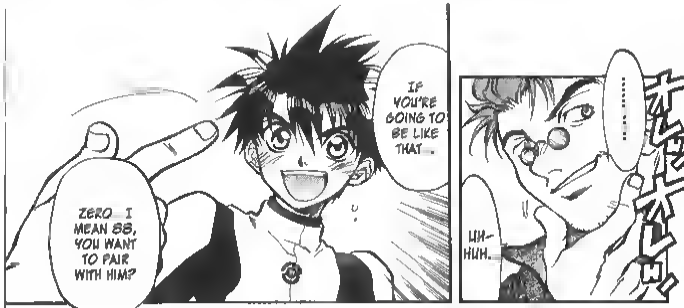
NEW AGUI KEAMEIA!

AZUMA HIJIKATA, G.O.A.
TO "RANKING INSTRUCTOR

ALIVE

HOW THE HELL'D HE GET IT TO MOVE LIKE THAT?!
ZERO!! DID YOU SEE THAT?!
WATCH QUIETLY, DAMMIT.
THAT PRO-ING BEAT FIVE GUYS IN A ROW!!
AWESOME!
I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN
QUIET! LISTEN TO ME.
OF COURSE THIS IS G.O.A.'S TOP CLASS PRACTICING.
HE'S STRONG!! THAT NUMBER 05!
ALL RIGHT, TODAY WE ARE WATCHING
INSTRUCTOR AZUMA, WHO IS THAT PILOT?
AHHM, HIM. YES
BEFORE YOU COMPLAIN THAT YOU ONLY HAVE TWO DAYS, JUST BE GRATEFUL THAT YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO ASSOCIATE WITH OUR FINEST CANDIDATE PILOTS
WILL PAIR UP WITH SENIOR CANDIDATES IN ORDER TO MASTER THE BASICS OF CONTROLLING THESE PRACTICE MACHINES
FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS, YOU NEW CANDIDATES
PRO-ING
STEP
02

WOWW!!
HYAAAAAAAHH!!
V
IOS PRO-ING


IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT...
ZERO... I MEAN 88, YOU WANT TO PAIR WITH HIM?
UH-HUH.

YES! YES YES YES!!

DID YOU CUT YOUR HEAD?
HEY, YAMAGI
I WANTED TO BE PAIRED WITH ERTS TOO
OH, MAN YOU CHEATED, ZERO
MAYBE, BUT I CALLED IT FIRST I WIN

ERTS VIRNY COCTEAU, AGE FOURTEEN.
NO. 05. HE MAY BE THE YOUNGEST OF OUR MASTER CANDIDATES...
...BUT AS FAR AS ABILITY GOES, HE HAPPENS TO BE THE BEST.

FOURTEEN? OH, MAN WOW
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
WHAT'S HE LIKE?
Very interesting.
HE MUST HAVE POSSESSED TREMENDOUS POWER WHEN HE FIRST BECAME A CANDIDATE.

ONLY FOURTEEN AND ALREADY THE BEST, HMMM?
I WANT TO BATTLE HIM!
EXCUSE ME, INSTRUCTOR AZUMA. WHO'S GOING TO BE PAIRED WITH HIM?
ME! ME ME ME!!!
Jerk

H. HUH? YOU DON'T KNOW ME?
IT'S ME, ROOGE C'MON, GUYS
?!
?!
ROOGE SAWAMURA?
A-A NEW CANDIDATE?!
SAWAMURA...?
Yeah
Eh?
ROOGE
J-JUST HOW MUCH WEIGHT DID YOU LOSE?!
HEY! C'MON. I'M NOT FAT ANY-MORE...
OOHH, THE FAT KID! I THOUGHT IT WAS SOMEONE NEW!
YOU MEAN THE FAT KID?!

YAAMAAGI-KUN!
PAT
NO, WELL, HOW DO I SAY IT? LIKE... YOU KNOW? "FIGHTING SPIRIT"! OR SOMETHING...
SHEESH. MORE PROOF
..THAT ZERO IS A COMPLETE MORON
I CUT MY HAIR, YOU JERK. NOT MY HEAD!
YAMAGI-KUN?
TH-THAT VOICE WITHOUT ANY FIGHTING SPIRIT THAT EVEN THE READERS HAVE ALMOST FORGOTTEN
ZERO-KUN AND CLAY-KUN TOO
...IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

I KEEP WONDERING...
IF SHE'S ALL RIGHT
MOM...

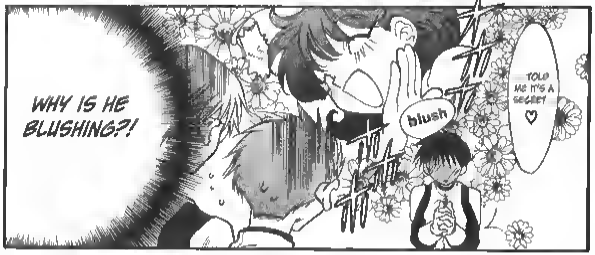
THEN OUR COLONY... IT WILL BE ATTACKED WITH LOTS OF ENERGY THEN...
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO BECOME A PILOT FAST!

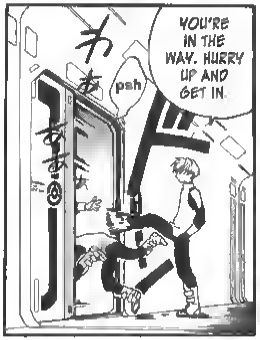
...YOU WERE SO WEAK FOR SO LONG...
SOOO, I HOPE YOU'RE GETTING BETTER I MISS YOU

REI...

EH—THAT IS, WRECKA-CHAN.
HOW DID YOU LOSE ALL THAT WEIGHT SO FAST?

STOPPPP!! THIS IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT!
UNBELIEV-ABLE! YOU'RE FRICKIN' SKINNY!!
J-JUST A MINUTE! HOW DID YOU GET SO SKINNY SO FAST?! LET ME SEE!!
People are staring!
Kyaah
Whoa, it's a hand!!


WHY IS HE BLUSHING?!
blush
...TOLD ME IT'S A SECRET ♡


psh
YOU'RE IN THE WAY. HURRY UP AND GET IN.

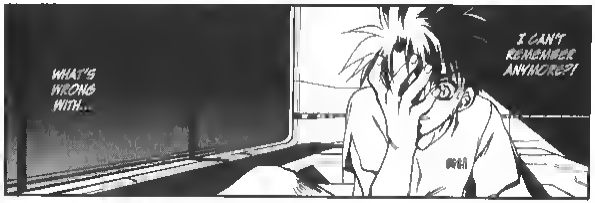
ZERO-KUN.
LET'S DO OUR BEST TOGETHER FROM NOW ON!
WELL, THIS MEANS ALL THE NEW CANDIDATES ARE TOGETHER AGAIN. THAT'S GREAT!

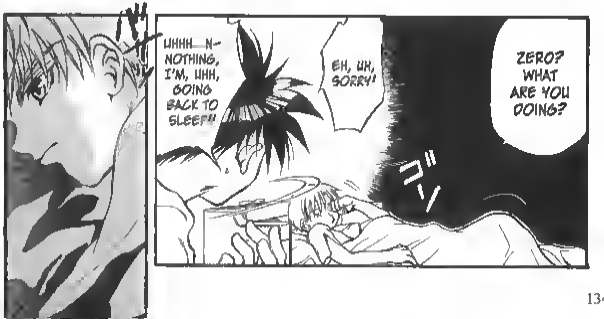
MOM?
!!
I'M SORRY, REI ..
..I CAN'T GIVE YOU EVERYTHING I WANT TO.
AND I CAN'T LEAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU.
I'M SO SORRY ..

WHAT'S WRONG, REI?
MOM, HERE MY NAME IS ZERO
MOM!
MOM
...EVEN MOM...
BUT IT'S NOT WEIRD .. IS IT?
THEY THINK IT'S A WEIRD NAME.
NOBODY EVER CALLS ME "REI".
IT'S THE ONE IMPORTANT THING HE GAVE YOU.
YOU GOT IT FROM YOUR FATHER..
REI...
THAT NAME IS YOURS.

I COULDN'T HELP IT! I COULDN'T SLEEP!
HURRY, HURRY!
ZERO! THIS IS YOUR FAULT FOR STAYING UP SO LATE!
WE'RE LATE! WE'RE LATE!
WAHH!!
87
88
LOUSY CREEP.
HE'S ALREADY THERE!
WHERE'S HIEAD?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! IF EVEN ONE OF US IS MISSING, WE CAN'T TAKE THE CLASS!
CLAY, DAMMIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HUH?
HAVE YOU EVER FORGOTTEN WHAT YOUR MOM LOOKS LIKE?
WHAT?!
UMMM, CLAY?
HURRY UP!

NO, NONONO! OH NO, I CAN'T REMEMBER...
I DON'T REMEMBER MY MOM'S FACE...
NO...
HUH... SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ME...
IT'S LIKE... SOMETHING DISAPPEARED


WHAT'S WRONG WITH...
I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYMORE?!


UHHH... N-NOTHING, I'M, UHH, GOING BACK TO SLEEP!!
EH, UH, SORRY!
ZERO? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

EVERYONE IS ON TIME
ALL RIGHT!
tick
AND THE TOP CANDIDATES WILL BE HERE SOON TO SHAPE YOU UP
THE REPAIRERS ARE ALREADY AT WORK
!
ZERO...
DAMMIT, MEAD IF YOU WAKE UP FIRST, YOU SHOULD WAKE US UP!
...ENNA-KUN, RIGHT?
OH, WHATEVER! I DON'T CARE. JUST HURRY!
JUST GO! WE'RE IN A HURRY HERE!!
WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
YOU ARE A COMPLETE MORON.
ME?
I WANTED TO FORGET HER!
The damn hag
.....
.....
DON'T WORRY, ZERO. SINCE YOU CAME TO G.O.A. YOU'VE BEEN STUFFING SO MANY NEW THOUGHTS INTO YOUR SMALL BRAIN...
...YOU'RE BOUND TO THROW OTHER MEMORIES OUT.
But it should come back.
HURRY!
FORGET IT WE'VE GOT OTHER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT

NEWBIE
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GREETING
OKAY, LET'S GET STARTED.
OH, YOU CAN'T DO THAT. HE AVOIDS CONTACT WITH PEOPLE.
AAAAAAAAHH! WE'RE SORRY! WE'RE SORRY!
HE REALLY IS STILL A NEWBIE.
WHAT WAS THAT?
THAT'S IT!
FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS, THEY ARE YOUR COACHES
ROOSE AND YOSHINO
CLAY AND ARAGO
Yeah!
VAMAGI IS WITH SURE
HIEAD IS WITH FORCE
FIRST, ZERO IS WITH ERTS
ALL RIGHT, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO YOUR PARTNERS

I'M ERTS VIRNY COCTEAU!
YOU'RE MY PARTNER FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW
AH. .
ERTS. H- HE'S .
PLEASED TO MEET YOU
...THE TOP CANDIDATE IN G.O.A....!!
EH?
HAND- SHAKES ARE, WELL
AH .' I'M SORRY ..
I'M REALLY REALLY PLEASED TO MEET YOU!!
Saisho To recognize that someone has a glue -abilities than you even if she's a fellow candidate -you sahito (That's the rule)

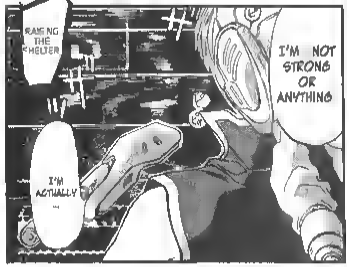
ゴゴゴゴ
...SCARED.
...OF FIGHTING.

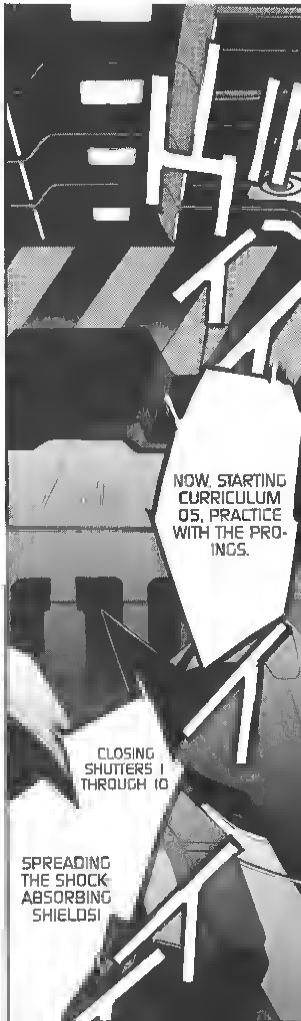
SCARED?

AT FIRST YOU'LL FEEL A LITTLE SICK... BUT YOU'LL GET USED TO IT SOON.

ZERO-KUN...YOU KNOW HOW TO GET IT TO MOVE... RIGHT?
CALL ME ZERO.
YEAH, WELL, THEY TAUGHT US.

HEY, ERTS!
What?
YOU'RE REALLY STRONG! I WAS IMPRESSED YESTERDAY!


I'M NOT STRONG OR ANYTHING
I'M ACTUALLY ...


NOW, STARTING CURRICULUM 05, PRACTICE WITH THE PROINGS.
CLOSING SHUTTERS 1 THROUGH 10.
SPREADING THE SHOCK-ABSORBING SHIELDS!

WHAT DO WE DO?!
WHAT IS WITH THIS GISEISHA?!
WE CAN SLICE IT UP OR CRUSH IT, BUT IT WON'T STOP!
THAT'S YOUR JOB, CANDIDATE.
FIGURE IT OUT!
!!
IT'S COMING BACK...!

UWAAAH!!
DON'T GET IN FRONT OF ME!
SPREADING THE BARRIER!

MAYBE IF I DESTROY THE CORE
THE CORE!!
.....!!
.....!
...NO!!
!!

How many times do I have to shoot it?!
LIKE IT'S TAUNTING US, DAMMIT!
だめだ!!
GAH...!
IT'S TOO SOON...

I'M SCARED OF FIGHTING.

AS MUCH AS I HURT SOMETHING ELSE...

...I FEEL LIKE I'M BREAKING MYSELF...

To Be Continued Next Volume

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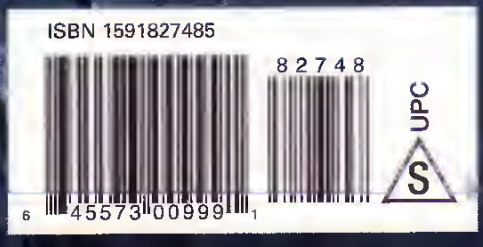

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